

University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine Syllabus

I. Course Information

Number:	VEM 5061
Course title:	Introduction to Veterinary Disaster Response
Department:	Small Animal Clinical Sciences
Course credit:	1 credit hour

II. Instructor and Support Services Information

Title	Name	Contact Information
Course Coordinator	Sarah Kirk, DVM, MS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Office location & office hours: Online by appointment– Email: sarahkkirk@ufl.edu
Course Faculty	Cynda Crawford, DVM, PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Office location & office hours: VS-13, by appointment– Office: (352) 273-8723– Email: crawfordc@ufl.edu
Student Services Coordinator	Chrissy Sedgley	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Office location & office hours: VS-3, by appointment– Office: 352-294-4757– Email: csedgley@ufl.edu
Technology Help	UF Help Desk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Web: http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/– Walk-in: HUB 132– Phone: (352) 392-HELP (4357)– Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu

III. Course Description

Course Goals: Educational Goals of the Course

Be prepared to respond to disaster and emergency events impacting animals and people.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Complete three online Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) courses to obtain credentials as a basic-volunteer responder (if not previously completed).
2. Know the Incident Command System (ICS) structure and why it is important for disaster management.
3. Know the potential roles served by volunteers and veterinarians within a disaster response.

4. Compare the response structure for animal disasters in Florida to the structures used in other locations.
5. Develop a personal disaster readiness plan.
6. Be ready to respond to a disaster if activated.

Course Outline

This course is delivered online through UF e-Learning (Canvas) using an interactive digital “textbook” divided into four Modules. Each Module includes interactive activities, readings, recordings, group discussions, and assignments to deepen student understanding as well as assess achievement. Faculty and facilitators are available as resources throughout the course.

Start Here:

Take the time to go through this module so you become familiar with the Canvas learning management system we use for e-learning at the University of Florida. You will learn about the flow of the course, complete a pre-course quiz that reviews the structure and expectations for this course, and introduce yourself to your classmates.

Module 1:

Have you considered the importance of disaster preparedness? Through this module, you will complete FEMA’s Incident Command System training and obtain credentials to become a basic-volunteer responder.

Module 2:

Consider the roles that you may play during a disaster response and research which agencies are responsible for handling animal-related disasters in your area. Online lesson introduces you to the functions of the University of Florida VETS Team.

Module 3:

In this module, you will create a disaster preparedness plan for your human and pet family. You will also create a “ready-go” bag should you be deployed as a responder. Finally, you will consider possible barriers to deployment and how those might be mitigated.

IV. Course Materials

Required texts

No texts are required for this course. All readings and resources are contained within the online lessons and the online e-library.

Additional Resources/Equipment

The Shelter Medicine Student Services office in VS-3 has an extensive library of textbooks available to students.

V. Evaluation/ Grading/ Testing

Grading Scale

Each module has a series of graded assignments, generally consisting of a project or quiz reflecting the module theme, a discussion, commentary on a recorded presentation, and a self-reflective statement.

Some modules contain additional or other types of activities. Specific assignment requirements can be found in Canvas. Final course grades are determined by the default grading scale in Canvas.

Due dates

Due dates are provided on the course calendar in Canvas. Students may work ahead of schedule to complete assignments before the due date, but must meet assignment submission deadlines. Assignments submitted after the due dates will be awarded only half credit. Deadline extensions may be requested prior to assignment deadlines for specific unavoidable reasons such as travel, illness, or emergencies.

Student Evaluation of Instruction

Instructor evaluations should be completed at the end of each semester and are a vital part of the University! Evaluations take only a few minutes and can be completed [online](#).

VI. Administrative Policies

See the [UF Student Handbook](#) for more information.

Remediation

The CVM Academic Advancement Committee reviews the academic performance of all students who receive a failing grade in a course, GPA falls below 2.0, receive “unsatisfactory” grade in criteria (including “readiness to practice”) or who is currently on probation. The committee will meet with the student and their advisor and decide on appropriate action for the student (including, but not limited to, probation or continuation of probation, repeat of semester or full year, dismissal). Full description of these policies can be in Student Services section of Student Handbook.

Attendance

Excused absences for religious holidays and family/personal emergencies must be reported to OSI/instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty

All students registered at the University of Florida have agreed to comply with the following statement: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.” In addition, on all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” To review the student honor code please visit [the Dean of Students Office](#).

Plagiarism includes any attempt to take credit for another person’s work. This includes quoting directly from a paper, book, or website, without crediting the source. Sources should be noted, a link to the website added, or quotation marks placed around the material and attributed, even during online discussions. However, the instructor expects more than simply cutting and pasting in this graduate-level course. Students are expected to review, evaluate and comment on material they research, rather than simply copying relevant material. Work will be graded accordingly.

Professional Behavior

The College of Veterinary Medicine expects all students to be professional in their interactions with patients, colleagues, faculty, and staff and to exhibit caring and compassionate attitudes. These and other qualities will be evaluated during patient contacts and in other relevant settings by both faculty and peers. Behavior of a veterinary student reflects on a student's qualification and potential to become a competent veterinarian. Attitudes or behaviors inconsistent with compassionate care; refusal by, or inability of, the student to participate constructively in learning or patient care; derogatory attitudes or inappropriate behaviors directed at clients, patients, peers, faculty or staff; misuse of written or electronic patient records (e.g., accession of patient information without valid reason) substance abuse; failure to disclose pertinent information on a criminal background check; or other unprofessional conduct can be grounds for dismissal.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office, Disability Resource Center at 352-392-8565. Students may also apply on-line for accommodations. For more information, see the [Disability Resource Center](#). The Disability Resource Center will provide a letter to the student who must then meet with the course instructor to discuss the required accommodations. Once notification is complete, the instructor can work with the Disability Resource Center to provide the requested accommodations. To ensure that necessary accommodations are provided in a timely manner, it would expedite this process if any student who might need an accommodation would notify the course coordinator during registration.

Student Safety

- Safety & Security Department: 352-294-4444 (immediate assistance 24/7).
- University Policy Department: 392-1111; 911 for emergencies
- On-site counseling services: [Counseling and Wellness Center](#); 392-1575.
- Staff members in OSI are also readily available for those who need immediate assistance.

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

VII. Other information:

Technology Requirements

- A desktop or laptop computer with high-speed internet access and multiple browsers other than Internet Explorer (Firefox, Google Chrome, or Safari). Apple iOS and tablets might not be completely compatible with e-learning at this time. Mobile apps do exist for accessing distance learning technologies however, these mobile applications may have some limitations compared to the desktop versions.
- Students must have Microsoft Office software installed and have basic skills for using Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Students with a GatorLink ID have free access to Lynda.com for training and are able to download discounted/free software from the [GatorCloud](#).

- We use the Canvas email to communicate about course-related issues. This is more likely to result to better communication with your classmates, the TAs, instructors, and facilitators than emailing us personally. Using Canvas for course communications also helps us remain compliant with the student privacy FERPA regulations.